

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03  
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 W  
-----031429 003065 /43  
R 011030Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL CURACAO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3137  
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NA  
SUBJECT: ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER, ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER,  
WAS RECEIVED BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL FEBRUARY 28:

QTE - DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ISLAND TERRITORY OF ARUBA HAS THE  
HONOR OF EXTENDING TO YOU OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR  
GOVERNMENT AN INVITATION TO EXTEND A REFERENDUM IN THE FORM  
OF AN OPINION POLL CONCERNING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF  
ARUBA WHICH IS FACED WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVES:  
TOTAL INDEPENDENCE FOR ARUBA OR ARUBA AS PART OF AN INDEPENDENT  
ANTILLIAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE REFERENDUM WILL BE HELD ON  
MARCH 25, 1977.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ALL LOCAL HOTEL EXPENSES WILL BE FOR  
THE ACCOUNT OF THE ISLAND TERRITORY OF ARUBA.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE  
TO UNDERTAKE AT THIS END, WE WILL BE GREATLY HONORED WITH YOUR  
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REPLY.

RESPECTFULLY,  
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ISLAND TERRITORY OF ARUBA

(SIGNED BY) THE GOVERNOR  
THE SECRETARY

UNQTE

2. I SUGGEST THAT I BE AUTHORIZED RESPOND TO THE INVITATION  
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QTE - DEAR GOVERNOR,

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF  
FEBRUARY 25 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT, EXTENDING ON BEHALF  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE ISLAND TERRITORY OF ARUBA,  
AN INVITATION TO ATTEND AN OPINION POLL CONCERNING THE  
FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF ARUBA.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS  
REQUESTED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO  
ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S KIND INVITATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH ESTEEM AND  
CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) CHARLES M. HANSON, JR.

AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL

UNQTE

3. IN MY VIEW, THIS IS ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY MEP LEADER BETICO  
CROES, WHO HAS WORKING CONTROL OF THE ARUBA ISLAND COUNCIL,  
TO BUILD THE CONCEPT OF ARUBAN "AUTONOMY" BY ISSUING IN THE  
NAME OF ARUBA AN INVITATION TO THE HEAD OF A FOREIGN  
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STATE, BYPASSING IN THE PROCESS NOT ONLY GNA, BUT GON AS WELL.  
CROES TELEPHONED CONGEN SOME WEEKS AGO TO ASK WHETHER LETTER  
TO PRESIDENT COULD BE SENT TO CONGEN (ANSWER WAS NON-COMMITTALLY  
AFFIRMATIVE). I FURTHER SUGGEST THAT I BE AUTHORIZED SEND  
COPY OF ARUBAN LETTER AND USG REPLY, INFO GNA. DEPARTMENT MIGHT  
ALSO WISH CONSIDER INFORMING DUTCH EMBASSY.

4. FYI. I PLAN ROUTINE CONSULAR VISIT (PRISONER VISIT)  
TO ARUBA MARCH 25-27. HOWEVER, IF DEPT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE,  
ARRIVAL CAN BE DEFERRED UNTIL SATURDAY, MARCH 26.

5. ADVISE.  
HANSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, VISITS, INVITATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CURACA00136  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770073-0659  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CURACAO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 790c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2954353  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, PPDC, NA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/790c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009